



Acid Rain Program

Continuous Emissions Monitoring (CEM)

Final Rule for Technical Revisions to Part 75 Monitoring and

Reporting

Today's final rule revises the Part 75 CEM monitoring and reporting regulations to increase implementation flexibility for the affected utility industry and clarify the existing provisions of Part 75.

BACKGROUND OF TODAY'S ACTION...

On January 11, 1993, EPA promulgated the final core Acid Rain rules, including the continuous emission monitoring (CEM) regulation at 40 CFR Part 75. Since the rule was promulgated, the 263 Phase I utility units and the over 2,000 Phase II utility units have begun acid rain CEM implementation. In settlement discussions, some technical problems were identified in the rule and its appendices. Revisions to address these issues were published in direct final and interim final rules published on May 17, 1995. Today's final rule revisions are based on the comments received on the interim final and direct final rules published May 17, 1995.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

The Acid Rain Program and the provisions in today's final rule benefit the environment by preventing the serious, adverse effects of acidic deposition on natural resources, ecosystems, materials, visibility, and public health. The program does this by setting emissions limitations to reduce acidic deposition precursor emissions.

The Act, in Sections 412 and 821, establishes the requirements for the installation and operation of continuous emission and opacity monitoring systems, recordkeeping, and reporting for affected sources under the Acid Rain Program. The CEM rule not only ensures source compliance but also instills confidence in the market-based approach by certifying the existence and value of the commodity (the allowance) being traded. The rule establishes the requirements for the continuous monitoring of SO₂ volumetric

flow, NO_x, diluent gas, opacity, and CO₂ from affected units under Phase I and Phase II of the Acid Rain Program.

In addition to the monitoring requirements for each pollutant, the final rule clarifies provisions for the equipment certification procedures, increases flexibility for equipment performance quality assurance tests, and reduces reporting requirements for some units.

HOW DOES THE FINAL RULE PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO INDUSTRY?

The final rule increases implementation flexibility for industry by providing greater flexibility in complying with the daily quality assurance requirements of part 75. The final rule allows occasional off-line calibration error tests to be used for data validation, for any monitoring system that passes a one-time performance test designed to demonstrate the validity of an off-line calibration error test. The provisions in the final rule allowing some off-line calibration error tests are meant to provide additional flexibility in special circumstances and thus minimize the need to use missing data routines.

The final rule also increases implementation flexibility by giving utilities another method to use to monitor SO₂ emissions during hours when the units are burning gaseous fuel. In addition to the existing options, the final rule allows the use of an SO₂ CEM and a flow monitoring system to determine SO₂ mass emissions during hours when the unit is firing gas.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE FINAL RULE?

Most of the issues in this Acid Rain CEM final rule increase implementation flexibility for affected utilities. Resolution of these issues will have an impact upon how utilities select monitoring equipment and how they plan performance verification and quality assurance testing. The most important issues with the CEM rule are unit operation during daily calibration error tests, SO₂ monitoring methods during gas combustion, using reference method 9 on bypass stacks, increased implementation flexibility on data validation for daily calibrations and daily flow interference checks, and scrubber parameter and missing data reporting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION . . .

Anyone with a computer and a modem can download the rule from the Emissions Measurement Technical Information Center (EMTIC) (Under “Monitoring”; File: 75finrul.wp) of EPA’s Technology Transfer Network (TTN) by calling (919) 541-5384. For further information about today’s final rule, call Jennifer Macedonia at (202) 233-9180.

If you would like to receive other fact sheets on the Acid Rain Program, call the Acid Rain Hotline at (202) 260-9620.